# CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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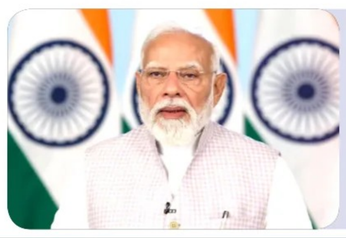
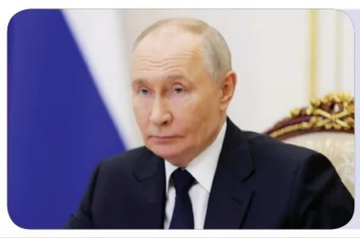


PM Modi Congratulates Thailand PM, Seeks Stronger Ties **P6**



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# Khamenei mourns Iran minister's death

Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei mourns Intelligence Minister Khatib's killing, urging officials to reinforce security and resilience as US-Israeli strikes continue targeting top Iranian leadership

**TEHRAN**

In Tehran, Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei expressed condolences over the killing of Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib, addressing President Masoud Pezeshkian and urging officials to intensify efforts to safeguard national security. Iranian state media reported that Khamenei emphasised the need for resilience, stating that the loss of key figures must be offset through stronger commitment by officials within sensitive institutions.

The statement followed reports by the Israel Defense Forces claiming responsibility for Khatib's death in a targeted strike in Tehran. Israeli authorities alleged that Khatib had played a significant role in suppressing protests during the Mahsa Amini protests and was involved in intelligence operations against Israeli and American interests. Iran has not independently verified all aspects of these claims but confirmed the minister's death.

Further compounding tensions, Iranian media also reported the killing of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps spokesperson Ali Mohammad Naeini in joint US-Israeli strikes. These developments come amid a series of high-profile assassinations targeting Iran's leadership following the death of Ali Khamenei in late February. Other senior figures, including Ali Larijani and Gholamreza Soleimani, have also reportedly been killed in recent strikes.

President Pezeshkian condemned the attacks as "cowardly," expressing grief over the loss of key officials while asserting that their mission would continue. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi maintained that Iran's political system remains robust, stressing that institutional strength ensures continuity despite the loss of individual leaders.

### Iran vows stability after strikes

In Tehran, Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei expressed condolences over the killing of Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib, urging officials to strengthen security and compensate for the loss of key figures. Israel claimed responsibility, linking Khatib to the Mahsa Amini protests crackdown and intelligence operations abroad. President Masoud Pezeshkian condemned the attacks as cowardly, promising continuity. Other senior officials, including IRGC spokesperson Ali Mohammad Naeini, were also killed. Iran asserts its political system remains robust despite escalating leadership losses and regional tensions.

# IDF Strikes Syria Following Attacks On Druze

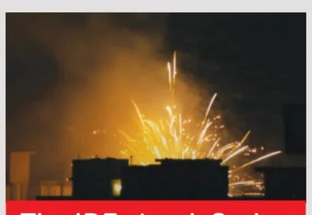
**TEL AVIV**

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed overnight strikes in southern Syria targeting a command centre and military equipment in response to attacks on Druze civilians in the As-Suwayda region. The IDF, in a post on X, stated it "will not tolerate harm to the Druze people" and will continue to act for their protection, closely monitoring developments and responding according to political directives.

The strikes focused on Syrian regime military camps and infrastructure linked to recent aggression against the Druze community. Israeli media, including the Jerusalem Post, reported that Syrian internal security forces were hit with mortar shells, followed by the mobilisation of heavily armed groups from the National Guard Druze paramilitary force in As-Suwayda.

The Druze are an ethnoreligious minority living mainly in Syria and Lebanon, with around 104,000 in Israel, including approximately 18,000 in the Golan Heights. In Israel, the community holds a prominent position, with members in political, public, and military roles. According to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, minorities in Syria face abductions, sexual violence, and arbitrary detention, highlighting their vulnerability.

The IDF's action underscores Israel's commitment to protecting the Druze amid rising regional tensions in West Asia and the Gulf, following targeted killings of Iranian officials. The operation demonstrates Israel's readiness to act decisively to safeguard minority communities and maintain strategic vigilance in southern Syria.



The IDF struck Syrian military targets overnight in southern Syria after Druze civilians were attacked, pledging ongoing protection

# By-elections to two Assembly Constituencies: Surjewala holds meeting with CM, DyCM

**BENGALURU**

AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala held discussions on Friday in Bengaluru with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K.Shivakumar who is also KPCC President, about the candidates for the by-elections to Davangere and Bagalkot Assembly Constituencies.

They were closeted in the CM's house and had a detailed discussion about the candidates for the two Assembly constituencies.

Later, at the KPCC office in Bengaluru with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and members of the ticket selection committee regarding the selection of party candidates for the by-elections to the Davanagere and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies, in the presence of Surjewala.

AICC Secretaries Abhishek Dutt and Gopinath Palaniswamy, Ministers Eshwar Khandre, Zameer Ahmed Khan, Krishna Byre Gowda, Sharan Prakash Patil, Rahim Khan, Madhu Bangarappa, R.B. Thimmapur, KPCC Working President and Rajya Sabha member G.C. Chandrashekar, and others were present.

# List of candidates sent to high command: KPCC Prez

**BENGALURU**

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President D.K.Shivakumarnan said the list of candidates for the by-elections to two Assembly Constituencies, Davangere and Bagalkot has been sent to the high command which will take a final call in this regard.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, he said the committee concerned had a detailed discussion with AICC General Secretary Ranjit Singh Surjewala about the candidates for two Assembly Constituencies. There is a consensus among the leaders and all of them would work for the victory of the candidates to be announced for the two Assembly segments. All of them have agreed to work united to retain those two seats at any cost.

# TEWARI PRAISES INDIA'S WEST ASIA APPROACH

**NEW DELHI**

Congress MP Manish Tewari praised the Union government's handling of the ongoing US-Israel-Iran conflict, stating India is taking the right approach by maintaining strategic balance. He emphasized that the conflict is not India's war, and a cautious, measured response safeguards national interests while avoiding direct involvement.

Tewari said multiple conflicts are unfolding in West Asia, and India has historically been a marginal player in the broader Middle East dynamics. "It's important to understand that there is not one war happening in West Asia. What is happening between Israel and Iran, with the United States taking a side, is not just about the Middle East dynamic alone," he noted.

He highlighted India's strategic autonomy, stressing that protecting the nation's energy security, including crude oil, natural gas, and fertilizers, is critical for both energy and food security. With a large diaspora of nearly 48 million people, India must navigate complex geopolitical pressures carefully. Tewari concluded that India's measured stance—favoring dialogue, restraint, and diplomacy—is prudent and helps protect national interests amid a volatile regional environment. The remarks contrast with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi questioning India's silence on the assassination of a foreign head of state, reflecting ongoing political debate over the government's policy in West Asia.

# NHRC Extends Bus Safety Compliance Deadline

**BENGALURU**

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has extended the deadline for implementing mandatory passenger safety measures in public transport vehicles across Karnataka to March 31, 2026. The extension applies to all regular buses, sleeper coaches, and All India Tourist buses registered in the State, as per Case No. 1834/90/0/2025, following the earlier order issued on January 5, 2026.

The Transport and Road Safety Department stated that the extension allows operators additional time to install safety systems in line with recommendations from the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT) and guidelines under Automotive Industry Standards AIS-052 and AIS-119. After March 31, strict enforcement will begin, with legal action against non-compliant operators. A final deadline for full compliance across all passenger buses is set for June 18, 2026.

Passenger safety has been a growing concern in India following multiple bus accidents. Rule 125-C of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, mandates emergency exits, fire safety systems, improved seating, and structural integrity. The NHRC emphasised that safety is a fundamental right and directed the State to ensure timely compliance, aiming to reduce fatalities and improve overall commuter safety standards.

# Eid-ul-Fitr Celebrated in K'taka Today

**BENGALURU**

Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated across Karnataka on Saturday, March 21, 2026, following an official announcement by the Markaz-e-Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Karnataka. The decision was taken during the monthly meeting of the Central Moon Committee of Karnataka, held on Thursday, March 19 (29th of Ramadan), after Maghrib prayers at the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf office, Darul Awkaf, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru.

The meeting was presided over by Mufti Iftekhar Ahmed Qasmi, Hon'ble Member of Majlis-e-Imarat, Imarat-e-Sharia, Karnataka, and a member of the Markaz-e-Ruet-e-Hilal Committee. After deliberations, the committee confirmed that the crescent moon marking the start of Shawwal 1447 Hijri was not sighted in Bengaluru or other key locations across India, including Delhi, Phulwari Shareef in Patna, and Hyderabad.

Following unanimous discussions, the Ulama-e-Karam declared that the first day of Shawwal will fall on March 21, officially marking Eid-ul-Fitr. Prominent scholars present included Hazrath Maulana Abdul Qadir Wajid Saheb, Hazrath Maulana Ejaz Ahmed Nadawi Saheb, Hazrath Maulana Syed Manzoor Raza Abidi Saheb, and Hazrath Maulana Qari Zulfiqar Raza Noori Saheb. Devotees across Karnataka will celebrate with prayers, feasts, and community gatherings.

**HIGH COURT COMFORT**

# *Advocates seek relaxed summer dress code Karnataka*

**BENGALURU**

With temperatures soaring unusually early this year, the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru has urged the High Court of Karnataka to relax mandatory dress code rules for lawyers across the State.

In a representation submitted to Chief Justice Justice Vibhu Bakhru, the Bar Association, Bengaluru President Vivek Subba Reddy highlighted that Karnataka is already experiencing intense summer conditions from the second week of March—earlier than the typical onset between the third and last weeks of the month.

Citing the prevailing heatwave-like conditions, the Association has requested exemption from wearing coats in all trial courts across Karnataka. It has proposed that the relaxation come into effect immediately, preferably from March 18, or at the latest from March 23, when courts reopen after the Ugadi festival.

The representation further noted that the situation is equally challenging in High Court benches at Bengaluru, Dharwad and Kalaburagi. Lawyers have found it "unbearable" to adhere to the traditional requirement of wearing gowns under the current weather conditions. Accordingly, the Association has sought exemption from wearing gowns in High Court benches as well. The proposed relaxation, the Association suggested, may remain in force until June 15, by which time the monsoon is expected to set in fully and bring relief from the heat. The Association has also requested the Chief Justice to direct the court registry to issue necessary notifications at the earliest in view of the health and comfort of advocates.

# Veterinarian doc dies in Hippopotamus Attack in Shivamogga Zoo

**SHIVAMOGGA**

A veterinarian, Dr. Sameeksha Reddy, who had gone to examine a pregnant hippopotamus at the Tyavarekoppa Tiger and Lion Safari in Shivamogga, was suddenly attacked by the animal. She was admitted to Max Super Speciality Hospital in Shivamogga, where she underwent surgery, but succumbed to her injuries at around 6:30 am on March 20 despite treatment.

Dr. Sameeksha Reddy, 27, a native of Bengaluru, had recently been selected as a Veterinary Officer and was undergoing training under the zoo's veterinary team. On March 19 at around 10:30 pm, she had visited the zoo hospital to provide follow-up treatment to a Sun Conure bird. Later, at about 11:45 pm, while checking the temperature of a pregnant hippopotamus using a thermal camera, the animal suddenly attacked her, according to the Deputy Conservator of Forests and Executive Director of the Tiger and Lion Safari.

### MINISTER CONDOLES DEATH

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has expressed his condolences over the incident. Calling it a tragic incident, the minister said that the government stands with the bereaved family during this difficult time. "Every life is precious. May God give strength to the family to bear this loss," he prayed. He has instructed officials to provide compensation to the family of the deceased doctor as per norms without delay. He also emphasized that veterinarians in all zoos across the state must strictly follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) while treating wild animals.

Further, Khandre has ordered an inquiry into the incident by a team comprising senior veterinarians and forest officials, and directed that a report be submitted within seven days.

## QUICK READ

### 22 men booked for wheelie stunts

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU
In a special drive, traffic police booked 22 men on charges of performing wheelie stunts to celebrate Shab-e-Qadr in KR Pura limits. They were performing stunts near the junctions of Medahalli and Bhattarahalli, police said. Following a tipoff, a team of cops in plain-clothes was deployed at the junctions. When the riders assembled and started performing stunts, they were detained and their two-wheelers seized.

### Ticketless travel in BMTC buses, 2,317 people fined

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU
2,317 passengers have been fined for travelling without tickets in BMTC buses in the month of December.
In December, 16,397 trips were inspected. Those travelling without tickets were identified and a fine of Rs 5,08,910 was collected from them. Cases have been registered against 1,445 operators of the company for dereliction of duty.
BMTC officials said that 229 male passengers were fined Rs 22,900 for sitting in seats reserved for women passengers.

### Wife files complaint as husband refuses 'First Night', alleges dowry

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU
In a shocking case reported from Bengaluru, a married woman has approached the police accusing her husband and his family of harassment, abuse, and denial of the 'first night' even months after their wedding.
The incident has come to light from Subramanyapura, where the woman filed a complaint at a women's police station.
As per her statement, she was married to Raghavendra, a resident of Gubbalala in the same locality. However, she has alleged that from the very day of the wedding, her husband refused to consummate the marriage and avoided any physical relationship.
The woman stated that despite entering into marriage with expectations of a normal married life, her husband continuously kept his distance and did not agree to the 'first night', causing her deep mental distress.
She has described this behaviour as a form of ongoing psychological harassment.
Adding to her allegations, the complainant said that even though gold jewellery and valuables were given during the wedding, her husband and his family continued to demand dowry. She has accused multiple family members of subjecting her to both mental and physical abuse.

# Idols, broken pots emerge from desilted Ulsoor lake

Deep desilting of Ulsoor Lake uncovers clay pot fragments, stone sculptures, and heaps of household waste debris

**CH NEWSBENGALURU**

Shards of clay pots and idols raised questions about their archaeological significance. An inspection by the department of archaeology on February 25 said most of the 14 sculptures discovered during the desilting process are modern. Experts said the idols may have been discarded into the lake during renovation or reconstruction of nearby temples. They do not hold significant historical value, according to Bengaluru Central City Corporation.

One Ganesha idol of 200-year vintage, has been handed over to the department for its likely antiquity value. The Rs 24-crore project aims to increase the lake's depth, improve water storage and raise groundwater table in the neighbourhood. The lake has 15 acres of wetland and the rest is primary waterbody. The lake was drained out in Jan and desilting started in February. Nearly 10 percent moisture remains in the desilted lakebed.The sight of the partially drained lake triggered reactions online, linking it to Bengaluru's ongoing water concerns.

Saying the previous desilting was done nearly 30 years ago and bunds needed to be repaired, Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad Khan said the desilting was essential to remove decades of sediment accumulation and restore the lake's capacity. The lake requires beautification too, he said.

Rajendra Cholan, Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner, explained that the project would also help raise groundwater levels in surrounding areas. Removing the thick silt layer will allow the lake to store fresh rainwater more effectively in the coming seasons, Cholan said.

We cannot accurately measure the total volume of silt removed because its moisture content varies, an official part of the cleanup explained. As part of beautification, the lake will get a two-level walkway and its bunds will be strengthened. The walkway will provide citizens a safe and convenient path for walking, Cholan said. A bridge linking the lake to a nearby park is under construction. The neighbouring park will be developed with new plant species to enhance greenery and biodiversity. Officials noted the increased water depth could make a part of the lake suitable for training by National Disaster Response Force.

# 'Parabhava year will bring good rains, economic growth'

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Overall, Somayaji said the Parabhava year indicates a bright and promising future for India, with growth expected in sectors such as dairy, animal feed, meat and leather exports.

**Sringeri Sharada Peetham Dharmadhikari Daivajna KN Somayaji said Parabhava Nama Samvatsara, the Hindu New Year beginning on Ugadi on Thursday, indicates a bright and promising future for India.**

Explaining the astrological outlook for the year, Somayaji said Parabhava Samvatsara will be an Adhika Masa year with 13 months, and notably no eclipses will occur during the entire year. He clarified though Amavasya continues until 6.42am on March 19, there is no confusion and the entire day will be observed as Ugadi. He predicted that the IT industry will continue to maintain demand, and the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on jobs may not be immediate, though some job losses are possible.

Manufacturing industries are also expected to increase their workforce. Somayaji said good rainfall across the country, including spells of excess rain, is likely and will boost agricultural production. Food grains and oilseeds are expected to record good output. However, sugar industries and sugarcane farmers may face some setbacks and conflicts during the year. According to him, prices of steel, cement, gold, silver and copper are likely to rise, while the share market is expected to gain strength, with several IPOs likely to succeed and the secondary market witnessing growth.

Industries such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals and mining, including iron ore, are expected to perform well. Engineering industries, including automotive, components and machinery manufacturing, may see a boost in production and exports. Domestic retail consumption is expected to remain strong, while exports could show mixed results. He said sectors such as hospitality, tourism and real estate are likely to witness a boom. India is also expected to attract higher foreign direct investment, while government monetisation activities may increase. Power production is expected to remain satisfactory and petroleum production and distribution may improve. However, Somayaji cautioned that the year could also witness severe winter, heavy rains and political clashes, with possibilities of communal tensions in parts of northern and western India. Bordering countries may continue to create disturbances, though India is expected to successfully counter them. He also noted the possibility of a major scam involving political leaders or bureaucrats and the demise of a prominent national leader, which could significantly influence national politics.

# Ex-student steals over Rs 5 lakh gold jewellery from Professor's home

**CH NEWSBENGALURU**

A private college professor has filed a complaint against her former student, who allegedly entered her house in Banasawadi on the pretext of using the restroom and stole gold ornaments worth over Rs 5 lakh. The teacher, Dr Sheela Anthony, caught the accused, identified as Elizabeth, red-handed and recovered her mangalya chain. However, she later found a gold necklace with a ruby pendant missing.

In her complaint, the professor said the woman visited her house on March 11 and introduced herself as a former student. She requested permission to use the restroom, which the complainant allowed. Soon after, she noticed that her cupboard had been opened and a stool was placed nearby. On checking, she found Elizabeth attempting to steal gold ornaments. However, fearing for her safety, she allowed Elizabeth to leave without raising an alarm. In the following days, Elizabeth reportedly returned to the area multiple times, making inquiries about the professor, raising suspicion. When the complainant later checked her valuables, she found that a gold necklace with a ruby pendant, weighing around 45 grams and worth over Rs 5 lakh, was missing. A senior officer said a case has been registered under BNS Section 305 (theft in a dwelling house, or place of worship, etc.) at Banasawadi police station.

# Three injured in gas cylinder explosion

**CH NEWS,**BENGALURU

Three persons were seriously injured after a gas cylinder exploded at Chandanahosahalli village in Nelamangala taluk on Thursday.The injured have been identified as Abhinandan, Abhishek and Ram Bachchan and have been admitted to Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru for further treatment.

Most of the contents of the house were burnt due to the intensity of the explosion. A case has been registered at Dabaspet police station in connection with the incident.

# Byte of revenge, sacked youth loots Rs 80 Lakh computer parts with dad

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Wearing a burqa and with his face concealed by a dupatta, a 21-year-old gained entry into a shop in HBR Layout and made away with high-value computer components worth Rs 80 lakh. The accused, Hemanth M's partner in crime was his 45-year-old father M Manjunath, a resident of T Channaiah Layout in Nagawara. The father-son duo has landed in the custody of Govindapura police. They fled with 444 RAM units and 279 SSDs from Nitish Computers on the night of March 14. Police recovered the entire haul from Manjunath's grocery shop. According to the complaint filed by shop owner G Raghu, he had shut his store around 1.40am on March 14.

When he returned at 11am the next day, he found the cupboard lock broken and Rs 2.4 lakh in cash missing, along with the electronic items. Govindpura Police Inspector PB Kiran and his team examined CCTV footage installed in the shop, which showed burqa-clad accused opening the shutter using a key and entering the shop at 2am. He first stole cash from the cabin, then took RAMs and hard disks packed in carton boxes, and fled in six minutes.

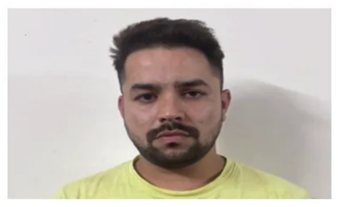
He wore gloves in a bid to prevent leaving fingerprints. Hemanth was arrested in Chanakya Layout, Nagawara, on March 15. He confessed to committing the theft with the help of his father, who was arrested subsequently.

Hemanth, who had completed his Second year PUC, was working as a technician in Raghu's shop but was sacked a month ago. His younger brother was also employed at the same shop. After gaining experience under Raghu, Hemanth had started his own computer service store. A few years ago, Raghu's financial situation was precarious, and he had lived as a tenant in Manjunath's house. Over time, he improved his circumstances, set up his own shop, bought a plot, and built a home. Given their close relationship, Raghu had even provided jobs to both of Manjunath's sons. However, after being dismissed, Hemanth and Manjunath reportedly turned against Raghu, disregarding his past support, and conspired to steal from him. According to police, Manjunath dropped Hemanth near the shop on their scooter and waited nearby. After stealing the computer components, the duo fled the scene on the same vehicle.

Hemanth was aware that Raghu used to keep the shop keys in his scooter's storage box. On March 13, he borrowed Raghu's scooter on the pretext of bringing an LPG gas cylinder, got duplicate keys made, and later used them to open the shop shutter, police said.

# Engineer by day, gun runner by night, Bhopal man linked to Bengaluru arms supply arrested

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU



Sleuths of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) have arrested a 34-year-old man from Madhya Pradesh for allegedly supplying country-made pistols and live ammunition to a businessman in Bengaluru. The accused, Syed Irfan Hyder Rizwi, a civil engineer and resident of Bhopal, was nabbed following the arrest of two youths earlier this month. In the earlier operation, CCB police had arrested Syed Masood from Jayanagar and Javed Alam, also from Bhopal, after recovering a country-made pistol and live bullets from Masood, who is a businessman.During interrogation, Masood told police that he had purchased the weapon for around Rs 40,000 with Alam's help.

He claimed he was in a relationship opposed by the girl's family and had bought the pistol for self-protection after receiving threats.Police said Alam acted as a middleman, facilitating illegal firearm deals. Based on his statement, Rizwi was traced and arrested.According to investigators, Rizwi revealed that he had sourced the weapon from a man in Indore allegedly involved in manufacturing illegal firearms. We will question Rizwi further to gather more details and are working to identify and arrest the manufacturer, a senior police officer said.

# Apartment communities are prepping for Ugadi and Ram Navami

**CH NEWS,** BENGALOURU

Community bonds grow stronger with every shared festival. Apartments across the city are celebrating Ugadi, the traditional New Year of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and some parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, in a spirit of joy, cultural pride, and harmony. The festivities will include traditional decorations with mango leaves, rangoli at home entrances, devotional prayers, and the sharing of Ugadi Pachadi, symbolising the many flavours of life and the wisdom to accept them with grace.

Parkwest residents celebrated Ugadi at Club Uno with a series of cultural and festive activities. The event featured Panchanga Shravana, a comedy talk by MS Narasimha Murthy, a cultural quiz, karaoke, and a rangoli competition, said Ajay Kumar TR, president of the Parkwest Apex Association.

The celebrations will conclude with a traditional banana leaf dinner for about 1,000 residents. But beyond the rituals, the celebration carries a deeper message, said Hunaid Topiwala, Vice-President of Mantri Pinnacle Residents' Association.

**SETBACK FOR POLICE OFFICER**

# *Panel Confirms DGP Ramachandra Rao Videos Not Doctored*

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The investigation into sleaze videos purportedly involving suspended DGP Ramachandra Rao has taken a fresh turn, with a special probe committee ruling out claims that the clips were AI-generated. These videos are neither deepfakes nor edited versions, the panel said in its report to the state govt. Following this, the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms issued a notice to Rao, paving the way for a departmental inquiry against him. The videos featured an officer in police uniform engaging in indecent physical acts with two women. The videos were reportedly shot in 2016-17 inside the office of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) (Belagavi range).

While a section of the media pointed fingers at Rao as he had served as IGP (Belagavi range) earlier, the latter denied the allegations, claiming the videos were fabricated.As the issue threatened to snowball into a political controversy, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah suspended Rao, ordered a probe and formed a committee comprising IPS officials, headed by Additional Director General of Police R Hitendra, with Chetan Singh Rathore, CB Rishyanth and Kala Krishnaswamy as its other members.

Sources said the team submitted a 100-page report to the government, confirming that the video clips were genuine. The report contains inputs from the Forensic Sciences Laboratory (FSL), which confirmed that the videos had not been tampered with. The team recorded statements from orderlies, drivers, staffers and other junior officers who had worked with Rao during his tenure as IGP-Belagavi.

# BMTC Electric Bus Crashes into Depot After Driver Error

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A case of alleged negligence by a BMTC driver led to an unusual accident inside a bus depot in Bengaluru during the early hours of Friday.

The incident took place around 6:40 am at the Peenya 2nd Stage BMTC depot. According to initial information, an electric bus belonging to BMTC moved on its own and crashed into a part of the depot after the driver reportedly parked it without applying the handbrake.The bus, identified with registration number KA51-AK4169, is said to have rolled forward uncontrollably. In its path, it hit four two-wheelers parked within the depot premises, causing visible damage to the vehicles.The situation escalated when the bus continued moving and eventually rammed into the traffic controller's room located within the depot. The impact caused damage to the structure, raising concerns about safety within depot premises.Officials indicated that the driver had left the bus stationary but failed to secure it properly using the handbrake. This lapse is believed to have resulted in the vehicle moving forward on its own.

QUICK READ

## The country treated Dr BR Ambedkar badly, HT Pothe

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU
This country treated Dr BR Ambedkar badly, insulting him as an untouchable, a traitor, and a puppet of the British. Ambedkar did only good for the country, said HT Pothe, Director of the Institute of Kannada Studies at Gulbarga University. He was speaking while inaugurating the Ambedkar Smriti Sanchaya tate-level symposium organised by Sanskrit University.This society humiliated me by not letting me sit with everyone else to read, by not letting me drink water like everyone else. When Mountbatten and Ambedkar went to the temple, Mountbatten was allowed in, but Ambedkar was not allowed in.

## Rally demanding implementation of internal reservation

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU
On March 25, a coalition of Madiga organisations will hold protests in district centers demanding implementation of internal reservation in recruitment, and a rally will be held at the Chief Minister's residence on the same day, said Dr N Murthy, State President of Karnataka Dalit Sangarsha Samiti. The government's action to appoint 56,432 government posts without internal reservation is not right. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress government have been opposing implementation of internal reservation since the beginning.

## Biker flung off, dies after speeding car rams into him

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU
A 43-year-old biker died in a road accident after a speeding car rammed into his vehicle in the early hours of Friday. The deceased has been identified as BV Venkategowda, a resident of Bettakote village. The accident occurred on the Budigere–Devanahalli Main Road when a car hit the bike from behind at high speed. The impact of the collision was so severe that Venkategowda was flung into the air before crashing onto the road, killing him on the spot. The car driver, who lost control after the crash, reportedly overturned the vehicle before veering into a roadside ditch. Both the bike and the car were extensively damaged.

# Rs 810 cr flyover planned to rase Mysuru Road gridlock, major relief on the way for Chamarajapet

Government initiates plans for a new flyover from Sirsi Junction to BHEL KIMCO Junction as traffic congestion worsens in key Bengaluru stretches.

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Traffic congestion in Chamarajapet and along Mysuru Road has become a growing concern for daily commuters, prompting the government to step in with a major infrastructure solution. In a significant move, authorities are preparing to construct a new flyover aimed at reducing vehicle congestion on this busy stretch.The proposed flyover will connect Sirsi Junction in Chamarajapete to the BHEL KIMCO Junction, one of the most traffic-prone corridors in the city. This route currently witnesses heavy vehicle movement throughout the day, often leading to long delays and frequent traffic jams.To address this issue, the government has planned the construction of the flyover at an estimated cost of ₹810 crore. The total project cost includes land acquisition expenses, which are expected to form a significant part of the budget.

As part of the initial steps, the Urban Development Department has begun preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR), which will outline the design, feasibility, and execution plan for the flyover. Once completed, the project is expected to streamline traffic movement and provide much-needed relief to motorists using Mysuru Road regularly.Officials believe that this infrastructure upgrade will play a crucial role in decongesting one of Bengaluru's busiest road networks. The flyover is specifically being planned to tackle persistent traffic jams and improve overall connectivity in the region.

# Traffic curbs on March 21 for Ramzan prayers, Major road closures near Town Hall and Mysore Road

In anticipation of the crowd and to ensure public safety, traffic police have announced restrictions and diversions across key stretches of the city.

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Bengaluru is set to witness major traffic disruptions on Saturday, as the city prepares for a large Ramzan prayer gathering expected to draw 15,000 to 20,000 Muslim devotees.The prayers will be held near a mosque located on BB Junction area, Mysore Road and at the BBMP Playground near 7th Cross, 1st Main Road, Chamarajapet.

The advisory clearly states that vehicle movement on Mysore Road will be temporarily restricted, with changes coming into effect from 8:00 AM onwards and continuing until the completion of the prayers.

Authorities have imposed strict restrictions on major routes connecting central Bengaluru. Vehicular movement of all kinds will be completely prohibited between Tollgate Junction and Town Hall via BB Junction and over the BGS Flyover on Mysore Road.Similarly, vehicles travelling in the opposite direction-from Town Hall towards Mysore Road via BGS Flyover and BB Junction up to Tollgate Junction-will also not be allowed during the restricted hours.

To ease congestion, traffic will be redirected through several alternate routes:

Commuters heading from Mysore towards Town Hall are advised to take a left at KIMCO Junction under Byatarayanapura Traffic Police limits, continue via West of Chord Road, turn right at Toll Gate towards Magadi Road, then take another right at Hunasemara Junction, followed by a left at Sirsi Circle, and proceed towards Town Hall.For those travelling from Town Hall towards Mysore, different routes have been assigned based on vehicle type, heavy vehicles must use the service road beneath BGS Flyover, turn right at Veterinary Junction, and continue via Goods Shed Road. Light vehicles should take a right at Sirsi Junction, proceed through JJ Nagar, Tank Bund Roadm, Binny Mill Junction, Hunasemara, Magadi Road, then take a left at Toll Gate and move via West of Chord Road towards Mysore.

Traffic police have urged citizens to cooperate and avoid unnecessary travel in these areas during the morning hours. Commuters are advised to start early, follow diversion signs, and expect delays due to the large turnout.

Additionally, vehicles moving from Basavanagudi and Chamarajapete towards Majestic are advised to follow the route via Chamarajapete 1st Main Road – 5th Cross Road, Mysore Road, Veterinary Junction, Goods Shed Road.

# Man arrested for duping temple priests' families of gold and silver

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

In a shocking case, police have arrested a conman who used a clever and unusual method to cheat people, not by breaking into homes or snatching chains, but by targeting temple priests and their families.

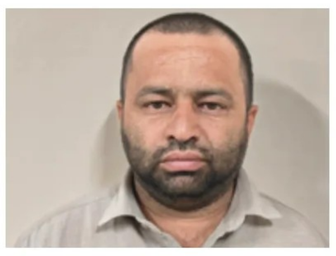
The accused, identified as Praveen Bhat, was caught by the Rajajinagar police after multiple complaints. His method of operation was carefully planned and executed over time.

Police said the accused would first visit well-known temples in different parts of the city regularly. He would present himself as a wealthy businessman and slowly build trust with temple priests by interacting with them and even performing special poojas.

To gain more confidence, he would donate thousands of rupees to the temple as offerings. Once he became familiar to the priests, he would move to the next step of his plan.

He would tell the priests that he was opening a new shop and needed to perform a special ritual. Instead of inviting the priests themselves, he would specifically ask them to send their wives or women from their families, claiming that married women were required for the ceremony.

Believing his words, the priests would send their family members, often dressed in



jewellery as per ritual customs. The accused would arrange transport, usually taking them in an auto.During the journey, he would convince them not to wear jewellery to the location and collect all the ornaments, promising to return them later. However, after taking the valuables, he would abandon the women midway in crowded market areas and escape.This pattern was repeated across the city. Police investigations revealed that he had cheated priests from more than five temples in areas including Hebbal, Ramamurthy Nagar, City Market, Rajajinagar and CK Achukattu Police Station limits.Based on a complaint filed by one of the affected priest families, police tracked down and arrested the accused.

During the operation, officials recovered valuables worth approximately Rs 15 lakh, including 116 grams of gold and 409 grams of silver from him.

Police have registered multiple cases against the accused and further investigation is ongoing to identify if more people were cheated using the same method.

## Bengaluru Gaushala fire not accidental, miscreants suspected behind blaze

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A fire accident reported earlier this week at a gaushala in Bidarahalli has now taken a serious turn, with authorities suspecting it was not accidental but a deliberate act. The incident, which occurred on March 17, had initially raised questions due to the circumstances surrounding the blaze.

According to available information, the fire broke out in dry hay stored at the gaushala, creating panic at the premises. However, in a timely response, the cattle present at the shelter were safely rescued, preventing a major tragedy.

The gaushala, identified as Sri Krishna Gaushala, has been sheltering a large number of rescued cattle. Notably, around 1,158 cows that were being transported to a slaughterhouse were earlier rescued and relocated to this facility. This development had reportedly created pressure and challenges for those managing the shelter. The gaushala is run by Pukhraj Maharaj, who has now approached the police alleging foul play. In his complaint, he has stated that the fire was intentionally set by unidentified miscreants.The complaint further highlights that the gaushala had been facing continuous trouble from certain local elements, including threats and harassment. These tensions are now being seen as a possible motive behind the incident.

## PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THEIR CHILDREN

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The youth in the society are ruining their future with drugs, said Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Vice Chancellor Dr BC Bhagwan. Speaking after participating in the Racing Day programme of the Destruction-Free India Campaign organized by the Rajarajeshwari Group of Educational Institutions on the Mysore-Bengaluru main road, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Narcotics Control Bureau and Dishabod Foundation, he said that it is possible to build a drug-free society across the country by creating awareness campaigns in schools and colleges.Sachin Ghorpade, Director of the Narcotics Control Bureau of India, said that the number of drug addicts using chemical substances like cannabis and opium is increasing day by day in the country. Youth and students are becoming slaves to drugs and ruining their future, thereby causing the downfall of their families. Therefore, an awareness campaign should be conducted to warn that drug use is harmful to health and has adverse effects on their lives.Public Prosecutor of the Government of India Madhu N Rao, Dr Vijayanand, Chief Executive Officer CN Seetharam, Dr B Sathyamurthy, Dr Naveen, Principals Dr Basavaraj Bandare, Dr Jagadish, Dr Nalini, Dr Latha, Dr Praveen Kumar, Dr T Balasubramanian, and others were present.

## Bengaluru rent crisis, Techie ready to quit job after failing to find house near MG Road despite Rs 25,000 budget

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A fresh example of Bengaluru's worsening rental crisis has come to light after a techie shared his struggle of failing to find a house, even after months of searching. The post has now gone viral, drawing attention to the challenges professionals face while trying to live close to their workplace.

The techie, who had been working in Electronic City for the past three years, recently switched jobs and joined a new office on MG Road from January 1. However, what followed was an exhausting daily routine.

Travelling nearly 50 kilometres every day between Electronic City and MG Road, along with heavy traffic, began to take a toll. The long commute left him drained by the time he reached the office, affecting his daily routine and energy levels.

To ease the situation, he decided to shift closer to his workplace by February. Every weekend, he began actively searching for rental homes around MG Road. He identified several decent localities, including Frazer Town and Domlur, hoping to find a suitable place.

The techie even subscribed to the NoBroker app by paying Rs 8,000, expecting better access to listings. However, that effort did not yield results. He later approached brokers and paid them as well to increase his chances, but the outcome remained the same.In some cases, houses were available, but the locations did not meet his expectations. Despite being willing to pay up to Rs 25,000 for a single-bedroom house, he could not secure a suitable rental.After months of continuous searching and repeated disappointment, the techie expressed frustration in his post, stating that he is now considering resigning from his job due to the inability to find accommodation near his workplace.

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The incident has once again brought focus to the rising rental costs, limited availability, and the growing gap between workplaces and affordable housing in Bengaluru.

GIFT FOR CRICKET FANS

# *Namma Metro Free Travel for RCB Match Ticket Holders*

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

There is a week left for the start of the IPL. Royal Challengers Bangalore, which has been granted permission to hold its home matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, has given a bumper offer to its fans. This time, those who officially purchase match tickets will get free travel on 'Namma Metro'.

Those who have purchased tickets to watch the matches will also be provided with a QR code for metro travel. Ticket holders can avail the facility of free travel by scanning the QR code near the entrance and exit gates of the metro station.

This time, only online tickets have been given priority for RCB's home matches. Fans can buy tickets through the team's official website (SHOP.ROYALCHALLENGERS.COM) or the app. The ticket sale date will be announced soon. No other website or person has the right to sell tickets.

The franchise has made it clear that strict legal action will be taken against such people.

Ticket buyers can book limited vehicle parking spaces in advance. A pick-up and drop shuttle service will be available from the parking lot to Cubbon Road, the RCB franchise said.

The 2026 IPL tournament will start from March 28. The first phase schedule has also been released in this regard. Since the assembly elections in the states of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala are just around the corner, only the schedule of the first 20 matches has been announced.

The opening match of the tournament will see defending champions Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) clash. The match will be hosted by the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

## QUICK READ

### Youth Perform Dangerous Bike Stunts on Chennai Expressway

**Hoskote**

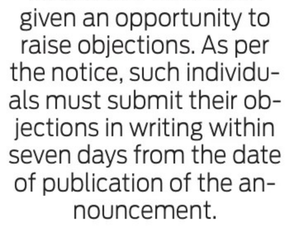
According to reports, several youths gathered on the Chennai Expressway and engaged in risky wheeling and stunt riding, putting not only their own lives at risk but also endangering other motorists. Eyewitnesses and videos circulating on social media show the group parking their bikes in the middle of the highway and performing stunts in an unregulated and hazardous manner.

The incident is said to have occurred during early morning hours when traffic was still present on the road. Shockingly, the youths were seen performing wheeling from both sides of the highway simultaneously, creating a chaotic and potentially deadly situation for commuters. The reckless stunts disrupted the normal flow of traffic and forced other drivers to slow down or maneuver carefully to avoid accidents.

### Acid Attack: Officials Visit Victims Undergoing Treatment in Davanagere

**Chitradurga**

According to official information released on March 20, two women and three children who were injured in the acid attack are currently undergoing treatment at S.S. Hospital in Davanagere. The unfortunate incident occurred on March 19 at around 5:30 pm in Malappanahatti locality of Chitradurga city, leaving the victims with severe injuries. On Friday, Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority and Senior Civil Judge M. Vijay visited the hospital to inquire about the condition of the victims. During the visit, he interacted with the medical staff and obtained detailed information regarding the treatment being provided and the current health status of those injured in the attack. Deputy Director of the Women and Child Development Department, K.H. Vijayakumar, was also present during the visit.



### Action Initiated to Dissolve Hullikatte Milk Producers Cooperative Society

**Challakere**

According to an official release issued on March 20 by the concerned authorities, action has been taken to dissolve the Hullikatte Milk Producers Cooperative Society functioning in Hullikatte village of Challakere taluk. The move is part of administrative proceedings carried out under relevant cooperative regulations. The Samapana Adhikari (Liquidation Officer) of the cooperative society has stated that individuals who may be affected by the proposed dissolution have been given an opportunity to raise objections. As per the notice, such individuals must submit their objections in writing within seven days from the date of publication of the announcement.

# Man Dies at Huliyar Police Station; Villagers Stage Protest

Tension gripped Chikkanayakanahalli after a man reportedly died while in custody at the Huliyar Police Station. The incident triggered outrage among local residents, leading to protests by villagers who demanded accountability and a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death

**CHIKKANAYAKANAHALLI**

According to initial reports, the deceased individual was at the Huliyar Police Station for reasons that are yet to be officially clarified. News of his death spread rapidly across nearby villages, sparking anger and suspicion among the public. Villagers alleged possible negligence or foul play, though authorities have not confirmed these claims.

Soon after the incident came to light, a large number of residents gathered near the police station, raising slogans and demanding justice for the deceased. The protest intensified as villagers insisted on immediate action against those responsible, along with a transparent inquiry into the matter. Many protesters expressed distrust in the preliminary information provided by officials and called for higher authorities to intervene.

Police officials attempted to pacify the crowd, assuring them that a proper investigation would be conducted. Senior officers were reportedly deployed to the spot to bring the situation under control and to engage with community leaders. Authorities also indicated that further details would be shared after a formal inquiry is initiated.

The incident has raised serious concerns about custodial safety and police procedures in the region. Human rights advocates and local leaders have urged the administration to handle the case with sensitivity and ensure that justice is served without delay. As tensions remain high in Chikkanayakanahalli, officials are closely monitoring the situation to prevent any escalation. Further updates are expected as the investigation progresses and more facts come to light.

# SP Ranjith Kumar Bandaru Visits Malappanahatti Acid Attack Site, Conducts Inspection

**Superintendent of Police Ranjith Kumar Bandaru visited the site of the recent acid attack in Malappanahatti and carried out an on-ground inspection**

**CHITRADURGA**

According to official sources, SP Ranjith Kumar Bandaru reached Malappanahatti shortly after the incident was reported and reviewed the situation firsthand. He examined the location where the acid attack took place and gathered crucial details related to the sequence of events. The police team accompanying him also interacted with local residents to collect eyewitness accounts and additional information. During the visit, the SP directed officers to expedite the investigation and identify those responsible for the attack at the earliest. He stressed the importance of collecting strong evidence and ensuring that no lapses occur in the probe. Officials were instructed to analyze all available leads, including CCTV footage and witness statements, to build a solid case.

The acid attack has created panic and concern among residents of Malappanahatti, with many demanding stricter action against the accused. Locals have urged the police to ensure the safety of women and vulnerable individuals in the area. Community members also appealed for swift justice and preventive measures to avoid such incidents in the future.

SP Bandaru assured the public that the police department is committed to conducting a fair and thorough investigation. He also emphasized that strict action would be taken against those found guilty, in accordance with the law. Additional security measures are likely to be implemented in the area to maintain law and order.

The incident has once again highlighted the seriousness of acid attacks and the need for stronger enforcement and awareness. Authorities are expected to continue monitoring the situation closely as the investigation progresses.

*A tragic road accident near Durgavara in Challakere claimed the life of a bike rider, sending shockwaves through the local community*

# Bike Rider Killed in Accident Near Durgavara

**CHALLAKERE**

According to initial reports, the accident occurred near Durgavara on the outskirts of Challakere. The deceased, who was riding a motorcycle, reportedly lost control of the vehicle or collided with another vehicle under circumstances that are still being investigated. The impact of the accident was severe, leading to fatal injuries.

Local residents who witnessed the incident immediately rushed to the spot and attempted to assist the victim. However, due to the seriousness of the injuries, the bike rider succumbed before he could receive medical attention. Police were soon informed, and a team arrived at the scene to conduct a preliminary inspection.

Authorities have shifted the body to a nearby hospital for post-mortem examination to determine the exact cause of death. The identity of the deceased is yet to be officially confirmed, and efforts are underway to inform the family members.

Police officials have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident. They are examining whether overspeeding, negligent driving, or poor road conditions contributed to the accident.

Eyewitness statements are also being recorded to piece together the sequence of events leading up to the mishap.

The accident has sparked fresh concerns among residents about road safety measures in the area. Locals have urged authorities to implement stricter traffic regulations and improve road infrastructure to prevent such tragedies in the future. Further details are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses.

# Woman Dies After Saree Gets Entangled in Moving Bike Wheel Near Ganesh Temple

**NEELAMANGALA**

In a tragic incident near the Ganesh temple in the town, a woman lost her life after her saree got entangled in the wheel of a moving motorcycle. The shocking accident has once again highlighted the importance of safety precautions for two-wheeler riders and pillion passengers.

According to initial reports, the incident occurred when the woman was travelling as a pillion rider on a motorcycle near the Ganesh temple, a usually busy area with steady traffic movement. While the bike was in motion, the loose end of her saree (pallu) accidentally got caught in the rear wheel of the vehicle. Within seconds, the fabric tightened around the wheel, causing the motorcycle to lose balance and resulting in a sudden and severe accident.

Due to the entanglement, the woman was pulled off balance and fell onto the road, sustaining critical injuries. Eyewitnesses stated that the incident happened very quickly, leaving little time for the rider to react or bring the vehicle to a halt. Passersby and local residents rushed to the spot immediately and arranged for her to be taken to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment.

Despite prompt medical attention, the woman succumbed to her injuries, leaving the local community in shock and grief. The identity of the deceased has not yet been officially disclosed, and police are in the process of informing her family members.

Police personnel arrived at the scene shortly after receiving information and conducted a preliminary inspection. A case has been registered, and officials are collecting statements from witnesses to understand the exact sequence of events. Authorities are also examining whether any additional safety measures could have prevented the accident.

# Burglars Break Into Mobile Shop Near Nelamangala Town Police Station

**NEELAMANGALA**

In a daring incident, burglars broke into a mobile shop located just a short distance from the Nelamangala Town Police Station, raising serious concerns about security in the area. The theft, carried out under the nose of law enforcement, has shocked local residents and shop owners.

According to preliminary reports, the incident took place late at night when unidentified miscreants targeted a mobile shop situated within close proximity to the Nelamangala Town Police Station. Despite the presence of a police station nearby, the burglars managed to execute the break-in without immediate detection.

The accused reportedly forced open the shop's shutter or door to gain entry and proceeded to steal several mobile phones, accessories, and possibly cash.

The exact value of the stolen items is yet to be officially confirmed, but initial estimates suggest significant losses for the shop owner.

The incident came to light early in the morning when the shop owner arrived to open the store and found signs of forced entry. Shocked by the burglary, the owner immediately informed the police, following which a team rushed to the spot and began an investigation.

Police officials have conducted a preliminary inspection of the scene and are collecting evidence, including fingerprints and CCTV footage from nearby establishments.

Authorities believe that the burglars may have conducted prior surveillance before carrying out the crime, given the location's proximity to the police station.

The incident has triggered concern among local traders, who have expressed fear over rising theft cases in the area. Many have questioned how such a crime could occur so close to a police station and have demanded increased night patrolling and better security measures.

Police have registered a case and launched a search for the accused. Efforts are underway to identify and apprehend those involved in the burglary. Further updates are expected as the investigation progresses.

# Villagers Protest Against Rash Driving of Private Company Buses

**BAIRADENAHALLI**

Residents of Bairadenahalli staged a protest against the reckless movement of private company buses, alleging that the vehicles were being driven in a dangerous and uncontrolled manner. The villagers blocked the buses and demanded immediate action to ensure road safety in their area.

According to local sources, the protest erupted after repeated complaints about private company buses being driven rashly through Bairadenahalli village. Villagers alleged that the bus drivers were overspeeding, ignoring traffic norms, and posing a serious threat to pedestrians, schoolchildren, and other motorists.

On the day of the protest, a large number of villagers gathered on the main road and stopped several private buses from proceeding further. The protesters raised slogans against the bus operators and demanded stricter enforcement of traffic rules. They expressed frustration over the lack of response from authorities despite multiple earlier complaints.

Residents stated that the situation had become increasingly dangerous, with several near-miss incidents reported in recent days. Parents, in particular, voiced concern for the safety of children who use the same roads to commute to school. Elderly residents also highlighted the risks posed by the speeding buses in narrow village lanes.

The protest caused temporary disruption to traffic, as buses were halted for a significant period. Police officials later arrived at the scene and held discussions with the protesters to calm the situation. Authorities assured the villagers that necessary action would be taken against drivers found violating traffic rules.

Officials also indicated that measures such as increased monitoring, stricter checks, and possible penalties for negligent driving would be implemented. The bus operators have been warned to ensure that their drivers adhere to safety norms and avoid reckless behavior.

The protest reflects growing concerns over road safety in rural areas, where heavy vehicles often pass through narrow roads.

**CHALLAKERE GAMBLING RAID**

# *Police Raid Gambling Den in Challakere, ₹85,390 Seized*

**CHALLAKERE**

According to official sources, the raid took place in a suspected location within Challakere where several individuals had allegedly gathered to participate in gambling. Acting swiftly on a tip-off, a team of police personnel conducted the operation and caught the accused red-handed while they were engaged in betting activities.

During the raid, the police seized ₹85,390 in cash, which is believed to have been used for gambling purposes. In addition to the cash, officers also confiscated playing cards and other materials associated with the illegal activity. Several individuals present at the scene were detained for questioning, and cases have been registered against them under relevant legal provisions.

Police officials stated that illegal gambling not only violates the law but also has wider social consequences, including financial instability and disputes among families. They emphasized that such activities can lead to addiction and other criminal behavior if left unchecked.

The operation is part of an ongoing effort by the Challakere police to crack down on unlawful practices and maintain public order. Authorities have warned that strict action will be taken against anyone found involved in similar activities. They also encouraged citizens to cooperate with law enforcement by providing information about illegal operations in their localities. Further investigation is currently underway to determine whether the detained individuals are part of a larger network involved in organized gambling. Police are also examining whether such activities have been recurring in the area.

The raid sends a strong message that law enforcement agencies are vigilant and committed to taking action against illegal activities to ensure safety and discipline within the community.

# Protesters Urged to Use Special Hubballi-B'luru Train

A prolonged protest in Koppal completed its 140th day, with activists intensifying their call for action against industrial pollution and environmental damage. Protest leaders have now urged supporters to utilize a special train service for the upcoming Vidhana Soudha march in Bengaluru

**KOPPAL**

The protest, organized by the Koppal District Bachao Andolana Samiti and the Environmental Protection Forum under a joint action platform, has been demanding the removal of harmful industrial activities and protection of public health. Demonstrators have raised concerns over pollution caused by factories, alleging that nearly 50,000 residents across 20 affected villages are facing serious health risks.

Key demands of the agitation include shutting down industries accused of contaminating the Tungabhadra river, safeguarding public health, and reopening Basapur lake for community use. Protesters claim that unchecked industrial waste has severely impacted water quality and the environment, posing long-term dangers to livelihoods and ecosystems in the region.

QUIT BALDOTA
Don't Expand Kirloskar (KFIL), Kalyani Steels, UltraTech Cement, Mukund Sumi, Xindia Bhadrashree Steel, Tanush, Vanya and others * Avoid Pollution of Tungabhadra River
ಅನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟಾವಧಿ ಧರಣಿ ಸತ್ಯಾಗ್ರಹ
100

Speaking at the protest site, Allamaprabhu Bettaduru, the chief coordinator of the movement, called upon participants to join the "Vidhana Soudha Chalo" protest scheduled in Bengaluru.

He informed that a special train will operate from Hubballi via Koppal at around 8 pm on Sunday, and urged protesters to arrive at the railway station before departure to ensure participation.

Highlighting logistical challenges, Bettaduru also pointed to disruptions in fuel supply due to ongoing global tensions, which have reportedly affected the availability of cooking gas in Bengaluru, leading to temporary closure of some hotels. He advised protesters to carry their own food while participating in the satyagraha.

The protest saw participation from several activists and community leaders, including Kavya Gadad, Mallikarjun B. Gonal, Manjunath G. Gondabal, Santosh Deshpande, and others. Retired officials, social workers, and environmental activists also joined the agitation, expressing solidarity with the cause.

As the movement gains momentum, organizers remain firm in their demands, calling for immediate government intervention to address environmental concerns and ensure the safety and well-being of affected communities.

## QUICK READ

### Section 144 Imposed in Ranebennur Tank Area Until May 15

**Ranebennur**

According to an official order issued by District Magistrate Dr. Vijayachandra, the tank bund area in Ranebennur has been declared a prohibited zone under Section 144. The order will remain in force until May 15, 2026, during which any form of political, social, or religious gatherings and events will not be permitted. Officials stated that the decision was taken as a precautionary measure to prevent potential disturbances and ensure public safety in the region. The restriction applies to all kinds of assemblies, meetings, and group activities within the specified area. Meanwhile, authorities have also announced a separate public interaction meeting for residents. The meeting is scheduled to be held on March 23 from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM at the local administrative office in Ranebennur.

### Farmers' Leader Urges Unity Over Politics in Water Dispute

**Magadi**

Speaking at a press conference held in Magadi on Friday, Taluk Farmers' Association President Lokesh Hosapalya appealed to elected representatives and senior leaders to avoid politicizing the ongoing water dispute and instead focus on safeguarding farmers' interests. He stressed that issues related to irrigation and water distribution should be handled with unity and responsibility. Lokesh criticized recent statements by BJP leader Krishnakumar, who alleged disparity in the distribution of Hemavathi water between taluks. Refuting the claims, he said such remarks were misleading and creating unnecessary divisions among farmers. He emphasized that water is a shared resource and there should be no discrimination in its allocation.

### Devara Dasimayya Jayanti to be Celebrated on March 23

**Mandya**

According to an official release, the Jayanti program will be held at 11:00 AM, marking the birth anniversary of the revered saint-poet Devara Dasimayya. The gathering aims to honor his contributions to social reform and spiritual thought, which continue to inspire generations. Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy will grace the occasion with his distinguished presence. The program will be inaugurated by District In-charge Minister and Minister for Agriculture N. Cheluvarayaswamy. Several key dignitaries will attend as chief guests, including A.B. Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, Chairman of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited and MLA from Srirangapatna; P.M. Narendraswamy, Chairman of the State Pollution Control Board and MLA from Malavalli; and Dr. Moorthy, Chairman of the State SC/ST Commission.

## State-Level Chhalavadi Bride-Groom Meet to be Held

**KOPPAL**

Addressing a press conference, community leader Kanakamurthy Chalavadi announced that the gathering will take place on Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm at Panaganti Kalyana Mantapa located on Bhagyanagar-Koppal Road. The programme is being jointly organized by the District Chhalavadi Samaj Thinkers Forum, District Chhalavadi Mahasabha, Devindranam Priya Samrat Ashok Cultural, Educational Institution, and AIG Foundation Chikkodi.

The event will be inaugurated by entrepreneur Aravind E. Fatti of AIG Foundation, while retired Principal Secretary of the Irrigation Department R. Rudrayya will light the ceremonial lamp. Former Kolar MP S. Muniswamy and former MLA Y. Sampangi will offer floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's portrait during the inaugural session.

The conference will be presided over by Gavishiddappa Bellad, founder and former president of the Chhalavadi Welfare Association. Several dignitaries and community leaders are expected to attend as chief guests, including Krishna Ittangi, vice-president of the State Chhalavadi Mahasabha; district president Siddu Myageri; former municipal member Muttu Kushtagi; and Saraswati Ittangi, a member of Bhagyanagar Town Panchayat. Other prominent attendees include Siddarampa Hosamani, Venkatesh Murthy Kushtagi, Nagaraj Nandapur, Sanna Kanakappa Chalavadi, Radha Kanakamurthy Chalavadi, Dr. Anil Kumar Begar, Mallikarjun Tondehal, and Suresh Balaganur.

Organizers have invited members of the community to participate in large numbers and make the event successful. Special guidelines have been issued for participants, stating that prospective brides and grooms must register before 10 am on the day of the event with photographs and biodata. Provision has also been made for remarriage candidates, provided they have legal divorce documentation.

Officials clarified that participation in the meet is free of cost, and arrangements for refreshments and meals will be provided. The event is expected to serve as an important platform for strengthening social bonds and supporting matrimonial alliances within the community.

## Grand Preparations Underway for Ambedkar and Jagjivan Ram Jayanti Celebrations

**GADAG**

The meeting, held at the District Administration Auditorium Hall, was chaired by Deputy Commissioner C. N. Sridhar. Addressing officials and community representatives, he emphasized that the Jayanti celebrations should not be limited to formal ceremonies but should serve as platforms to spread awareness about the ideals and contributions of the great leaders.

As per the plan, the birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram will be observed on April 5 at the auditorium hall in a symbolic manner. Later, on April 14, a larger joint celebration of both Ambedkar and Jagjivan Ram Jayanti will be organized at the Ambedkar Community Hall in the city, in collaboration with various organizations. Officials have been directed to work in coordination to ensure smooth and successful events without any lapses.

During the meeting, several community leaders put forward valuable suggestions to make the celebrations more impactful. A key proposal was to organize a blood donation camp on April 5, encouraging youth participation and promoting social responsibility. Participants noted that such initiatives would not only benefit those in need of blood but also instill a sense of service among young people.

There was also a strong emphasis on giving priority to lecture programmes during the celebrations. Scholars, thinkers, and speakers are expected to share insights into the lives, achievements, and social contributions of Ambedkar and Jagjivan Ram, helping educate the public and inspire future generations.

In addition, discussions were held on organizing processions, cultural programmes, city beautification, and cleanliness drives to mark the occasion. Officials also reviewed arrangements related to public participation and the installation of banners and display materials.

## Crackdown on Tobacco Sellers; 33 Cases Registered

**CHITRADURGA**

The coordinated operation was conducted by a district and taluk-level inspection team comprising officials from the Health Department and the Excise Department. The program targeted various tobacco-selling outlets, bars, and restaurants across Challakere, focusing on violations of tobacco control laws aimed at safeguarding public health, especially among the youth.

During the drive, officials found multiple instances of smoking in public places, which is prohibited under Section 4 of the COTPA Act. A total of 31 cases were registered for such violations, and fines amounting to ₹3,100 were collected from offenders. Additionally, two cases were booked under Section 6A for the illegal sale of tobacco products, resulting in fines of ₹200.

Authorities expressed concern over the rising incidence of tobacco addiction among young people, warning that it contributes significantly to health complications and increased mortality rates in society. Officials emphasized that strict enforcement of tobacco laws is essential to discourage the use of such harmful products and to promote healthier lifestyles.

As part of the awareness initiative, shop owners were instructed to mandatorily display boards related to Sections 4, 6A, and 6B of the Act, which outline rules regarding smoking in public places and restrictions on the sale of tobacco products. Public awareness was also raised during the drive, urging citizens to refrain from smoking in public spaces and to avoid chewing and spitting tobacco.

The operation was led by District Tobacco Control Cell advisor B.M. Prabhudev, Excise Inspector Gangaraju, Health Inspector Amruth Raj, and DEO Swami from the Taluk Health Office. Officials stated that similar drives will continue in the future to ensure strict compliance with tobacco control regulations and to protect public health.

## Auction of Unclaimed Motorcycles to be Held on March 24

**CHITRADURGA**

According to official information, a total of 30 motorcycles that were seized and remained unclaimed will be auctioned publicly. These vehicles fall under DP number 11/2026 of the Koteg Police Station and have been in police custody for a considerable period without any rightful owners coming forward to claim them.

The decision to auction the vehicles was taken after obtaining necessary permission from the court, in accordance with legal procedures governing unclaimed or confiscated property. Officials stated that all due steps were followed before proceeding with the auction process, including attempts to identify and locate the original owners.

Prior to the auction, the vehicles were evaluated by officials from the Regional Transport Office (RTO), who assessed their market value to ensure transparency and fairness in the bidding process. The auction will be conducted with the approval of the Superintendent of Police, ensuring adherence to established guidelines.

Police authorities have invited interested members of the public to participate in the auction, which will begin at 11 am on March 24 at the Koteg Police Station premises. Officials believe the auction will not only help clear pending inventory but also generate revenue for the department. Meanwhile, in a separate enforcement action, authorities conducted raids on tobacco sellers across the district and registered 33 cases for violations of relevant laws. Officials stated that such drives will continue to ensure compliance with regulations and to curb illegal activities. Police have urged citizens to actively participate in lawful initiatives such as auctions and to cooperate with enforcement measures aimed at maintaining order and public safety.

## Devara Dasimayya Jayanti to be Celebrated on March 23

**GADAG**

According to official sources, the programme will be held at 11 am at the Sri Devara Dasimayya stage in Tunnel Pete area of Gadag-Betageri. The celebration aims to honor the contributions of Devara Dasimayya, one of the earliest Vachana composers and a prominent saint associated with the Bhakti movement, whose teachings continue to inspire generations.

The event will witness the presence of several dignitaries and public representatives. Basavaraj Horatti, Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council, and Shivraj S. Tangadagi, Minister for Kannada and Culture and Backward Classes Welfare, will attend the programme as chief guests.

The program will be inaugurated by H. K. Patil, Minister for Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation, and Tourism, who is also the district incharge minister of Gadag.

Several prominent leaders will participate as special invitees, including Government Chief Whip and MLC Salim Ahmed, Karnataka State Mineral Development Corporation Chairman and Ron MLA G. S. Patil, Haveri MP and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, MP P. C. Gaddigoudar, and several MLAs and MLCs including C. C. Patil, Dr. Chandru Lamani, S. V. Sankanur, and Pradeep Shettar.

Officials and administrators will also be present, including District In-charge Secretary Ramanadeep Choudhary and Belagavi Divisional Commissioner Janaki K.M. A special lecture will be delivered by Raghavendra Koppal from the Health Department.

District authorities, including Deputy Commissioner C. N. Sridhar, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer, Superintendent of Police Rohan Jagadish, and other officials, have extended invitations to the public to participate in large numbers and make the event a success.

**THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND EX. OFFICIO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS KALABURAGI**

No/DDLR/OSBJ/Tendar/36/2025-26 Date : 16-03-2026

**TENDER NOTICE**

DDLR Kalaburagi invites tender through e-procurement for BAND PEONS on outsource basis for ADLR's office Kalaburagi district, last date and time for uploading of tender in e-procurement is 07-04-2026 by 5-00 pm. More information available at https://karnataka.gov.in

**Sd/- Technical Assistant to Deputy Commissioner and Ex. Officio Deputy Director of Land Records Kalaburagi**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1199/KSMC&A/2025-26

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**DOCUMENTS MISSING**

The General public is hereby informed that our client the Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Narasandara Branch,Narasandra, has lost the original title deed/document as detailed here below from its custody lying at its office branch at Narasandara, Kuduru Hobli, Magadi Taluk while migration of the documents from Tumakuru To Narasandra in the year 2017, held with them as Mortgage in connection with Loan Account No.64117091231, in the account of Mr. G.Ramesh S/o K.Ramachandra, R/o Arisinakunte, kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk. Any person dealing with the same shall do so at their own risk and consequences. Any person who may be in possession of such documents may kindly return it to us at the below mentioned address.

| Sl. No. | Document description | Document Date | Document No. Number/SRO |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Original Registered sale deed executed by P.H.Kulakarni in favour of G.Ramesh. | 04-08-2003 | Book No.1, Volume No.2193, Pages No.230 to 232, Reg.No.1382 /2003-04 Dated 04-08-2003, registered at the office of the. |
| 2 | Original Registered sale deed executed by M/s Radhakrishna Developers represented by its Partners in favour of P.H.Kulakarni. | 24-06-1991 | Book No.1, Volume No.1577, Pages No.246 to 250, Reg.No.861/1991-92 Dated 25-06-1991 registered at the office of the Sub-regisrar, Nelamangala |

**SCHEDULE**

All that part and parcel of RCC roofed residential vacant site bearing Site No.1114, Kaneshumari No.26, measuring Ew 12 meter, North to South 9 meter, and bounded by East : Site No.1099, West:Road. North:-Site No.1113, South:-Site

Dated this 18th March 2026.

**Mr.Lakshmana**, B.A.LL.B.,
Panel Advocate, State Bank of India,
Mahaveeranagara, T.M.Road, Kunigal-572130

Government of Karnataka

**BANGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH**

O/o Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.

No.EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/23/2025-26/1756 Date: 18.03.2026

**Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notice (Short Term)**

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public procurement portal for the Goods approved Under Support Activity Head of grants for the year 2025-26 Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **26.03.2026 up to 4.00 pm.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division,
Bengaluru Urban Dist, Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/6368/2025-26

Government of Karnataka

**Assistant Conservator of Forests and Technical Assistant to Deputy Conservator of Forests Koppa Division, Koppa.**

Email ID: koppaacf@gmail.com

No. ACF:Koppa:Tender:18/2025-26 Date: 13.03.2026

**Brief Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited with last date of 18.04.2026 for the work of constructing Rail Barricade for 2.810 kms for prevention of wild animals menace in forest areas from Sarya in the limits of Chikkagrahara Zone of Koppa Forest Division for the year 2026-27. Approx. amount of work of Tender fixed is Rs.3,99,03,111/- (Excluding G.S.T.). Participate in the e-Tender subject to all conditions in the Tender Notification of this office dated 13.03.2026. Further information can be obtained from https://kppp/karnataka.gov.in

**Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests and Technical Assistant to Deputy Conservator of Forests Koppa Division, Koppa**

DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/198/25-26/2040

# INDIA EVACUATES CITIZENS FROM IRAN AMID RISING TENSIONS

**NEW DELHI**

India is continuing its evacuation efforts as citizens stranded in Iran steadily return home through neighbouring countries.

The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday said that more Indians have been evacuated using land routes via Armenia and Azerbaijan, with the operation still in progress. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed that 913 Indian nationals have crossed into these neighbouring countries with assistance from Indian embassies, and many of them have already safely reached India.

He also informed that all 284 Indian pilgrims who were earlier stranded in Iran have now returned home. The MEA control room has received only a small number of requests for help, mostly concerning Indians working aboard merchant ships.

Additional Secretary Aseem R Mahajan said that six Indian nationals have died, while one person is still missing amid the ongoing tensions in West Asia.

Indian missions in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq and United Arab Emirates are actively coordinating with local authorities to trace the missing individual and facilitate the return of mortal remains of the deceased.

Officials further noted that travel conditions across the Gulf region are gradually improving, with an increase in the number of flights operating. Since February 28, nearly three lakh passengers have successfully returned to India from the region, reflecting steady progress in evacuation and travel arrangements.

India is continuing its evacuation efforts as citizens stranded in Iran steadily return home through neighbouring countries

## QUICK READ

### Hoax Gas Bomb Threat Email At Press Club

**MUMBAI**

The Mumbai Press Club received a hoax email on Friday claiming gas bombs were planted inside and would explode at 1 pm. Police and security agencies quickly rushed to the spot and carried out a detailed search. Teams from the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad and dog squads checked the entire building but found nothing suspicious. The sender, who identified as Neerja Ajmal Khan, also made political claims. Cyber teams have begun an investigation to trace the source of the email.

### Thunderstorms And Rain Lash Madhya Pradesh Districts

**BHOPAL**

Scattered but intense rain hit parts of Madhya Pradesh on Friday, bringing thunderstorms and lightning across several districts. The India Meteorological Department issued a yellow alert warning of gusty winds up to 50 kmph in areas like Bhopal, Indore, and Gwalior. Light to moderate rain is expected to continue over the next few days. Farmers have been advised to avoid outdoor work during storms. The showers brought relief from heat but caused minor waterlogging and traffic disruptions.

## Jaishankar Meets Bangladesh Envoy To Boost Ties

**NEW DELHI**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Riaz Hamidullah in New Delhi on Friday to review and strengthen bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh. The discussion focused on enhancing cooperation and building closer ties across key sectors.

The Ministry of External Affairs stated that India continues to assist neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh, in meeting their energy requirements while also managing its domestic needs. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India has received requests for energy supplies from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and other nations, and has been providing diesel to Bangladesh since 2007 through various channels. He noted that while India is continuing its support, it is also taking into account its refining capacity and fuel availability. At the same time, supply of LPG remains a concern due to disruptions linked to the West Asia situation. The government is prioritising domestic consumers before addressing commercial demand.

Earlier, India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, held discussions with leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party government to boost cooperation. Talks focused on areas such as rural development, local governance, and economic progress.

Both countries agreed to deepen engagement in sectors like agriculture, cooperatives, and grassroots empowerment. Officials also underlined the importance of strong people-to-people connections and shared history, especially the bonds formed during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, reaffirming their commitment to mutual respect and continued cooperation.

## 6 Indians Dead, Flights Resume Amid Gulf Crisis Situation

**NEW DELHI**

Six Indian nationals have lost their lives and one person is still missing following separate incidents in the Gulf region, even as evacuation efforts continue.

The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday said the incidents are linked to the ongoing situation in West Asia. Additional Secretary Aseem R Mahajan said Indian missions in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq and United Arab Emirates are in constant touch with local authorities to locate the missing individual and facilitate the return of mortal remains of those who died.

He added that the travel situation in the Gulf region is gradually improving, with flight operations increasing. Since February 28, nearly three lakh passengers have returned to India from the region.

From the UAE, around 90

flights are expected to operate, while limited flight services are also continuing from Oman and Saudi Arabia. With the partial reopening of airspace in Qatar, some commercial flights have resumed.

However, airspace in Kuwait and Bahrain remains closed. To assist stranded passengers, special flights are being arranged from Saudi Arabia to India.

Officials said these steps are being taken to ensure the safe and smooth return of Indian nationals despite ongoing disruptions in the region.

## PM Modi Congratulates Thailand PM, Seeks Stronger Ties

**NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated Anutin Charnvirakul on his election as Thailand's Prime Minister and expressed his readiness to work closely with him. He said India and Thailand will continue to deepen their strategic partnership and expand cooperation in various areas. In his message, Modi highlighted the long-standing historical and cultural ties between India and Thailand. He noted that both nations share a rich civilisational heritage and strong people-to-people connections. He added that the two countries remain committed to working together for peace, progress, and prosperity for their citizens. Charnvirakul, a prominent leader of the Bhumjaithai Party, secured the Prime Minister's post after winning a clear majority in the House of Representatives. He received 293 votes, defeating his opponent Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, who managed 119 votes. After his victory, Charnvirakul assured members of Parliament that he would work with all political parties to ensure the country's development and focus on public welfare. He emphasised the importance of unity and cooperation in addressing national challenges and advancing growth.

## President Murmu Visits Vrindavan, Offers Prayers At Samadhi Site

**VRINDAVAN**

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday visited the sacred samadhi site of Neem Karoli Baba in Vrindavan and offered prayers. Anandiben Patel accompanied her during the visit.

According to officials, the President offered darshan and performed prayers with devotion at the sacred site. Earlier in the day, she also met saint Premanand Maharaj at Shri Hit Radha Keli Kunj Ashram in Vrindavan.

On Thursday, the President visited the Ram Janmbhoomi Temple in Ayodhya, where she offered prayers to Ram Lalla and took part in rituals, including aarti and pujan at various places within the temple complex.

She described her visit to Ayodhya as a deeply spiritual experience and said it was a privilege to be present on the first day of Navratri. She highlighted the importance of events such as the temple's construction, the consecration of Ram Lalla, and other milestones as significant moments in India's cultural history.

**POWER MEET**

## *Energy Security, Reforms Discussed At Power Meet*

**NEW DELHI**

Government reviews energy security, reforms, and future plans at ministerial meeting during Bharat Electricity Summit 2026.

As the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 entered its second day on Friday, a national power ministers' meeting was held under the chairmanship of Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to discuss energy security, reforms, and future growth strategies.

The minister said the summit would help achieve the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047" and underlined the role of the power sector in economic growth and infrastructure development. He noted that India's installed power capacity has crossed 520 GW, with improvements in distribution companies, smart metering, and reduced power shortages.

He stressed the need for better coordination between the Centre and states to ensure affordable and efficient power generation, transmission, and distribution. Highlighting global uncertainties, he emphasised strengthening energy security, increasing per capita consumption, and accelerating the shift to renewable energy. He also pointed to nuclear power as a clean energy option.

The meeting was co-chaired by Shripad Naik and attended by senior officials, including Pankaj Agarwal and Santosh Kumar Sarangi, along with state and Union Territory energy ministers. Naik highlighted the growing role of technology and artificial intelligence, especially in smart metering. He said nearly half of India's installed capacity now comes from non-fossil fuel sources and referred to the draft National Electricity Policy as a guide for long-term growth.

The Ministry of Power also released two reports for FY25 — Consumer Service Ratings of Discoms and Distribution Utilities Ranking. These reports assess utilities based on service quality, transparency, and financial and operational performance, covering 66 power distribution companies across the country.

## Rs 25 Lakh Cash Seized From Car Near Kolkata

**KOLKATA:** Police have recovered Rs 25 lakh in cash from a car in New Town during election-related checking, raising fresh concerns. The Kolkata Police on Friday seized the money during "naka" checking near City Centre-II in New Town, located on the outskirts of Kolkata. The driver, identified as Suresh Thakur, was taken into custody after he failed to give a clear explanation about the source of the cash. According to officials, the driver appeared uneasy when police asked him to open the vehicle's boot. After checking, officers found a bag containing bundles of Rs 500 notes. As he could not provide valid documents or details, the police confiscated the cash and arrested him. Investigators are now questioning the accused to trace the origin of the money and identify the intended recipient. Officials said this is the third major cash seizure reported in the state within a week.

**National Health Mission**
**District Health & Family Welfare Society® Hassan**
**District Health & Family Welfare Office Beside Hassanamba Indoor Stadium, Salagame road, Hassan**
**Email: dhohassan@gmail.com Ph: 08172-246575,**
NO: DHFW-HSN/XVFC-FR4/NHM-UHC/03/2025-26
Date: 20.03.2026

**Short Term - Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement)**

Online short term tender is invited under KTPP Act 1999 and rule 2000 made there under in Two Covers bid system from the intending and eligible Organisations/firms/Manufacturers for Supply Of Drugs From XVFC Funds (FR-4) to Sub Centres-Ayushman Arogya Kendra in Hassan District Under Universal Health Programme (UHC). Bid No: DHFWS/2025- 26/IND2368, Date 18/03/2026. Drugs as specified in E-Tender Document Total EMD of Rs.1,16,760/-. The detailed Tender Document may be downloaded from web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for information. The bids shall be submitted online before Date: 26/03/2026, 5:00 PM. The Technical bid will be opened online at Date: 27/03/2026 5.30PM. For any further clarifications contact the above office in working hours.

**Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Hassan**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1212/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

**Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chikkamagaluru District, Chikkamagaluru.**
**District Urban Development Cell, Chikkamagaluru**
E-Mail:- ka.chikkamagaluru.dudc@gmail.com Tel: 08262-239010
No.: DUDC/Works/CR/01/2025-26 Date: 17.03.2026

**E-Procurement Re-Tender Notice**

Re Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible class contractors registered in PWD for implementation of below mentioned works under Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme for the year 2025-26. Interested contractors can submit Tenders subject to

| Sl. No | Indent No. | Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs) | Reservation | E.M.D. Amount (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53155/CALL-2 | 100.00 | S.C | 42,350.00 |
| 2 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53153/CALL-2 | 100.00 | S.T | 42,350.00 |
| 3 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53161/CALL-2 | 100.00 | S.C | 42,375.00 |
| 4 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53163/CALL-2 | 100.00 | Category-2A | 42,350.00 |

Cost of Tender Form as per e-procurement, Time Period: 06 Months (Excluding Rainy Season)

**(1)** Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement portal: 02.04.2026 up to 17.30 Hrs. **(2)** Date of opening Technical Bid: 04.04.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. **(3)** Date of opening Financial Bid: 06.04.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.

Further information can be contacted during office hours and in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For any reason, if there are changes, they will be published only in e-portal. Will not be published in newspapers. Contractors should view in KPP Portal.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Chikkamagaluru.**

DIPR/ckm/ksmca/25-26/197/2039

**ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ**
**ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ**
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್:www.chikkaballapurcity.gov.in, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ ulb_ chickballapur@yahoo.co.in, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08156–275557,
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08156–274742
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನ.ಸ.ಚಿ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/ಟೆಂ–32/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 10.03.2026

**ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರಂತೆ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಮತ್ತು ಡಲ್ಟ್ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್–2.0) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತಿ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ದಿನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟರೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ವಿವರ **(1)** DMA/2025-26/IND5138/CALL-2 **(2)** DMA/2025-26/IND5139/CALL-2 **(3)** DMA/2025-26/IND5140/CALL-2 **(4)** DMA/2025-26/IND5980/CALL-2 **(5)** DMA/2025-26/IND5983/CALL-2 **(6)** DMA/2025-26/ IND5981/CALL-2 **(7)** DMA/2025-26/IND5708/CALL-2 **(8)** DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36014/CALL-3

**ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:502/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

**BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED**
**Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.**
No.DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/23/2025-26/CALL-2 Date: 18.03.2026

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**
**(Only Through GOK KPP Portal only)**

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

| SL. NO | Name of the Work | Estimated amount Rs.in lakhs | EMD (in Rupees) | Stipulated Period of Service Contract |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/ MLP Generated in Bengaluru Central City Corporation area to cement industries | 499.50 | 7,49,250.00 | 06 Months |
| 2 | Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru West City Corporation area to cement industries | 499.50 | 7,49,250.00 | 06 Months |
| 3 | Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru South City Corporation area to cement industries | 499.50 | 7,49,250.00 | 06 Months |

**Calendar of Events: (1)** Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **23.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs.** in KPP Portal. (2) Pre bid meeting: **24.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore (3) Last date for submission of the bids **27.03.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs** (4) Date of opening of Technical bid on: **30.03.2026 at 16.30 Hrs** (5) Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

**Sd/-**
**Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.**

DIPR/CP/6366/SSC/2025-26

## QUICK READ

### Russian drones damage two foreign ships in Odesa

Kyiv

Russian drones struck two foreign-flagged commercial ships in Ukraine's Odesa region, Governor Oleh Kiper said on Friday. The vessels, flying the flags of Palau and Barbados, were docked and loaded with grain at the time of the attack. Two people were injured in the overnight strike. Authorities also reported damage to a grain silo and nearby administrative buildings, highlighting continued risks to vital export infrastructure in the region.

### Qatar support helps Indian return after stroke

**DOHA**

An Indian national stranded in Qatar due to tensions was safely repatriated after medical treatment and coordinated support.Parminder, who was travelling to Canada, was left stranded in Qatar amid ongoing geopolitical tensions. During his stay, he suffered a brain stroke and was admitted to Hamad Medical Corporation in Doha. After receiving treatment, he was discharged and returned home safely with assistance from multiple agencies.

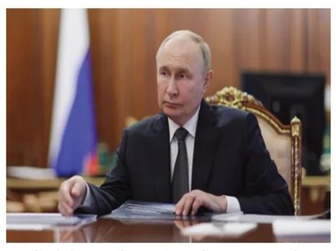
Officials said the repatriation was made possible through joint efforts by the Indian Embassy and community organisations.

# Russia urges ceasefire, criticises US Israel Gulf actions

## Russia has urged an immediate halt to fighting in the Persian Gulf, warning of rising regional instability

**MOSCOW**

Russia has expressed deep concern over the ongoing conflict in the Persian Gulf, calling for an immediate end to hostilities. In a statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry described the situation as unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran. It warned that continued fighting could worsen damage to energy facilities and other key infrastructure across Iran and



neighbouring Arab countries.

Moscow stressed that stopping military actions by Washington and Tel Aviv is essential for any progress toward peace. It said an immediate ceasefire would be the first step to reduce tensions and prevent further escalation in the region.Russia also offered to work with global and regional partners to find a diplomatic solution. It said countries like China and Turkiye could help support peace efforts through dialogue and cooperation. The ministry highlighted the need for long-term stability based on mutual respect and balanced interests of all nations involved.

The statement also referred to a proposal by Oman's Foreign Minister, Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, which called for inclusive regional dialogue. Russia said the proposal matches its own vision of building a security framework in the Middle East based on cooperation and trust.

The conflict began on February 28 with a joint US-Israel air campaign and has since expanded across the region. Increasing military activity and attacks on energy hubs have raised fears of a wider global crisis.

## China urges pause in West Asia conflict

**BEIJING**

China has called for an immediate halt to the ongoing West Asia conflict, warning of serious global economic consequences as the crisis enters its 21st day.Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said the situation is rapidly worsening and affecting not just the region but the entire world. He noted that the conflict is damaging key sectors such as energy, finance, trade and shipping, which are vital to global stability.

China stressed that military action is not a solution and may only deepen tensions. Lin said past experiences show that armed conflict leads to more hostility rather than peace. He urged all parties involved to immediately "press the pause button" on military operations to prevent further escalation.

Beijing also reaffirmed its commitment to diplomatic efforts. It said China is ready to work with other countries to help bring about a ceasefire and restore peace in the region at the earliest.

The conflict began on February 28 with a joint US-Israel offensive against Iran and has since expanded across multiple fronts. The situation intensified after the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, following which his son Mojtaba Khamenei took over leadership.

Rising tensions have put pressure on major global energy routes, especially the Strait of Hormuz. Disruptions in oil and gas supplies and shipping activities are raising concerns about long-term economic stability worldwide.

## Balochistan Disappearances Raise Concerns

**BALOCHISTAN**

Reports of enforced disappearances in Pakistan have resurfaced, raising fresh concerns over accountability and transparency in Balochistan, five previously missing individuals have returned, while two new cases involving students have heightened worries. Among those released is Fatima from Panjgur, who was reportedly detained in January and later freed.

## Digital cooperation drives inclusive growth at UNHRC forum

**GENEVA**

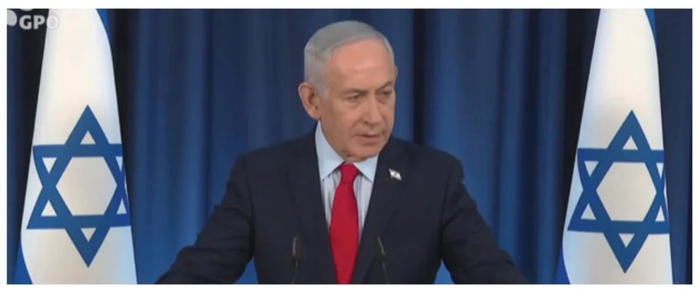
Experts at the United Nations Human Rights Council highlighted digital cooperation as a key driver of inclusive global development and human rights.

At a side event during the council's 61st session, discussions focused on how digital innovation and global partnerships can support development across regions. The event was organised by the Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health.

Speakers stressed that access to digital tools is now essential for economic growth and human rights. Technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital public infrastructure were identified as important in improving healthcare, education and financial inclusion, especially in developing countries.

India's digital platforms in health and finance were presented as successful examples of large-scale innovation benefiting millions. Experts said such models can be adapted by other nations to speed up development.

Participants noted that digital transformation could help achieve nearly 70 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals while also supporting climate action.



# Netanyahu denies death rumours amid online conspiracy claims

**JERUSALEM**

**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejects viral death rumours, but conspiracy theories continue spreading online despite repeated public appearances and official clarifications**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed rumours about his death, but speculation continues to spread widely on social media platforms.

The claims persisted even after Netanyahu addressed them during a press briefing on Thursday. Speaking in English, he said, "I'm alive, and you're all witnesses," while rejecting the rumours as fake news. He then provided updates on ongoing military operations, marking his second press conference since the conflict with Iran began on February 28.

The rumours first gained attention after his March 12 televised address, when some users alleged the video was created using artificial intelligence. They pointed to visual details such as an extra finger and unusual movements. Even after the latest press conference, similar claims resurfaced, with edited clips circulating online.Some users highlighted visuals like his shirt appearing from inside his sleeves, calling it proof of manipulation. Others questioned background elements such as curtain movements. However, a full review of the official broadcast shows these moments were natural and not unusual.

## IDF strikes Syria, vows protection for Druze community

**TEL AVIV**

Israel says it carried out strikes in southern Syria after attacks on Druze civilians, vowing continued protection for the minority community.

The Israel Defense Forces said it targeted a command centre and military equipment at Syrian regime camps during overnight operations. The action followed reported attacks on Druze civilians in the As-Suwayda region. In a statement, the IDF said it would not tolerate harm to the Druze population and would continue acting to protect them. It added that the military is closely monitoring developments in southern Syria and will respond based on directions from political leadership.

# BUSINESS

# Government Notifies Income Tax Rules 2026 For Compliance

## Government introduces new Income Tax Rules 2026 to strengthen compliance, transparency, and simplify procedures nationwide

**NEW DELHI**

The Centre has notified the Income Tax Rules, 2026, which will take effect from April 1, 2026, bringing major changes to direct tax systems. The rules are framed under the Income-tax Act, 2025 and replace older procedures with updated compliance frameworks and reporting standards.Dividend-related norms have been tightened. Companies must now maintain proper share registers, hold general meetings, and ensure dividend payments are made only within India. Stock exchanges will also face stricter rules, including maintaining audit trails for seven years, preventing deletion of records, and submitting monthly reports on revised transactions to improve transparency.The rules clarify capital gains classification, especially in cases like debenture conversions, offshore restructuring, and income disclosure schemes. A new framework for zero coupon bonds has been introduced, requiring applications three months before issuance, ratings from two agencies, and clear timelines for fund use.Tax authorities have been given wider powers for cross-border taxation. They can estimate non-resident income using global profit ratios or reasonable methods. For digital businesses, significant economic presence is defined as transactions of Rs 2 crore or 3 lakh users.The rules also standardise valuation methods for listed and unlisted shares, foreign entities, and partnerships. A clear formula has been set to calculate income linked to Indian assets in offshore deals.Further, expense exemptions will follow a simplified capped method, while housing benefits will depend on factors like city, salary, and ownership status.

# Tata Steel Opens Scrap Based Furnace

**MUMBAI**

**Tata Steel launches India's first scrap-based electric furnace in Ludhiana, boosting green steel production and supporting its long-term net zero emissions goal**

Tata Steel on Friday commissioned its first scrap-based Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) at Hi-Tech Valley in Ludhiana, marking an important move towards greener steel production. The facility, developed with an investment of ₹3,200 crore, has an annual capacity of 0.75 million tonnes and is designed to keep carbon emissions below 0.3 tonnes per tonne of steel.

The project aligns with the company's long-term goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2045. The plant will operate using nearly 50 per cent renewable energy and rely entirely on steel scrap as raw material, with around 40 per cent sourced from its recycling unit in Rohtak, Haryana.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Bhagwant Singh Mann, along with Chairman N Chandrasekaran and CEO T V Narendran.

The new plant will manufacture construction-grade steel under the Tata Tiscon brand, helping the company expand its footprint in the construction sector. Officials highlighted that the project reflects Tata Steel's focus on adopting low-carbon technologies and promoting a circular economy.In addition to industrial growth, the company has also contributed to local development over the past three years through initiatives such as skill training for youth, livelihood support for women, installation of solar-powered streetlights, promotion of sustainable farming practices, and scholarship programs, benefiting communities around the plant.

## QUICK READ

### SIP Helps Reduce Timing Risk In Small Caps

**NEW DELHI**

Small cap funds offer high long-term growth potential but come with higher volatility. These funds invest in emerging companies, making them sensitive to market trends and economic changes. As a result, entry timing can impact short-term returns, especially with lump sum investments. A Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) helps reduce this risk by spreading investments over time. As per Securities and Exchange Board of India norms, small cap funds invest at least 65% in companies ranked 251st and below.

### Nuvama Launches Financial Literacy Drive For Students

**BENGALURU**

Nuvama Wealth Management has partnered with the National Finance Olympiad to roll out a financial education program for government school students. The initiative, fully funded under CSR, will teach students from Classes 6 to 12 about money management, banking, savings, investments, and fraud prevention.

In its first phase, the program will cover 26,000 students across Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Launched around the International Day of Happiness, the initiative aims to build financial awareness and help students make informed decisions for a secure future.

## Reliance Jio Leads Subscriber Growth In Telecom Sector

**NEW DELHI**

Reliance Jio continued to record strong subscriber additions and maintained its leadership in the home broadband segment. The report said the telecom industry showed steady recovery in January 2026, with net wireless subscriber additions rising to 2.4 million. This marks an increase from 1.5 million in December 2025, 0.9 million in November, and 0.4 million in October.

Among operators, Reliance Jio Infocomm added 1.6 million subscribers, while Bharti Airtel added 1.2 million and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited gained 0.4 million users. In contrast, Vodafone Idea lost 0.7 million subscribers during the same period.

Jio's net wireless subscriber addition stood at 1.6 million in January, slightly lower than 1.8 million in December. Its active subscriber base, measured through Visitor Location Register (VLR), remained stable at 98.3 per cent.

In the home broadband segment, including fibre and 5G services, Jio continued to see strong growth, adding 0.78 million subscribers in January. This was mainly driven by the expansion of JioAirFiber services. In the 5G fixed wireless access segment, the company added 0.25 million users and held a leading market share of 70.9 per cent.

As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India data, Jio remained the largest telecom provider with 503.57 million wireless subscribers.

## WEST ASIA CRISIS POSES RISK TO ENERGY MARKETS

**NEW DELHI**

The ongoing West Asia crisis has not yet caused a major market correction, but risks may rise if disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz continue.

The report said markets have remained largely stable despite rising geopolitical tensions in the region. A key reason for this resilience is the continued flow of energy supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, which is crucial for Asian countries. Around 85 per cent of energy shipments through the route are meant for Asia, with China, India, and South Asia accounting for nearly 60 per cent of the total.

The report noted that Iran allowing selective passage of ships has helped ease immediate supply concerns and prevented panic in global markets. However, it warned that the situation remains uncertain, especially for energy-importing countries like India.

Jefferies highlighted that any prolonged disruption or closure of the Strait could have serious economic consequences. Since economic growth is closely linked to energy consumption, supply disruptions could directly impact growth in major Asian economies.

The report also pointed out that investors have recently treated geopolitical tensions as temporary setbacks, often seeing them as opportunities to invest rather than reasons to exit markets.

While current conditions suggest short-term stability, the report stressed that risks could increase sharply if tensions escalate further or lead to a sustained blockade. Such a scenario may push up oil prices, increase inflation, and slow economic growth across Asia, including India.

## Retail Office Demand Pushes NCR Rentals Higher

**DELHI-NCR**

Retail rents across Delhi-NCR are rising steadily as demand from both retailers and office workers strengthens, according to recent market studies. The shift is driven not just by higher rents, but by growing willingness among brands to pay for prime locations supported by strong consumer footfall.

A report by Cushman & Wakefield showed that retail rents on key high streets increased between 2 and 14 per cent in 2025. Areas like Khan Market saw around 8 per cent growth, while Gurugram's Galleria Market recorded nearly 14 per cent rise.Experts say the recovery in office markets is playing a major role.

# STAR BOWLER KEY TO B'LURU TITLE DEFENSE

## RCB's title defense faces uncertainty as Josh Hazlewood's injury sidelines the star pacer for the IPL 2026 start

**NEW DELHI**

As the cricket world gears up for the new season, former captain Faf du Plessis has sent a clear message: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) needs Josh Hazlewood to succeed. With the 2026 tournament fast approaching, fans are anxious about the fitness of the Australian star.

Hazlewood was a hero during RCB's winning run last year, but a stubborn hamstring injury has kept him off the field since November. The 35-year-old even missed the recent T20 World Cup because his recovery is taking longer than expected. Cricket Australia is currently managing his workload, and he is confirmed to miss the first few matches this season.

Du Plessis explained that Hazlewood is irreplaceable because he performs under pressure. Whether it is taking early wickets or bowling the difficult final overs, his absence leaves a "massive hole" in the lineup. The former skipper noted that the team's success usually goes hand in hand with having the big Aussie available to lead the attack.

Playing at Bengaluru's home ground is notoriously tough for bowlers because the pitch favors batters so much. Du Plessis pointed out that experience is the only way to survive there. He also mentioned that having a top-tier spinner, like Krunal Pandya, is the secret ingredient RCB needs to stay on top.

RCB will begin defending their hard-earned title on March 28 against Sunrisers Hyderabad. All eyes remain on the training camp, hoping Hazlewood returns to help the team keep their crown.

# India hosts Kazakhstan in major hockey push

**NEW DELHI**

**India hosts Kazakhstan's men's hockey team for a training camp, boosting skills, confidence, and international ties ahead of the Asian Games Qualifiers in Japan**

India is proving its role as a leader in world hockey by hosting the Kazakhstan men's team for a special training camp. The visiting side has spent the last ten days at the Sports Authority of India center in Sonipat, Haryana, sharpening their skills before the high-stakes Asian Games Qualifiers.

The camp has given the Kazakh players a chance to use world-class turf and test themselves against tough local teams. For a team ranked 55th in the world, this experience is about more than just practice; it is about building the confidence needed to compete with Asia's best. Coach Olga Urmanova noted that the friendly matches have already helped her players grow and adapt to a faster style of play. Kazakhstan is on a steady rise, having recently finished fourth in the AHF Cup. Now, they face a challenging path to the Asian Games, with matches lined up against teams like Oman, Thailand, and Indonesia. They hope this intensive stint in India will be the secret to securing their spot in the main event in Japan.

Hockey India officials believe these exchange programs do more than just improve gameplay. By opening their doors to neighboring nations, they are strengthening international ties and inspiring a new generation of players. As the qualifiers approach, fans are eager to see if this "Made in India" preparation helps Kazakhstan make its mark on the global stage.

*India's U20 women's football team arrives in Thailand, aiming for Asian Cup success and a World Cup 2026 berth*

# Indian young tigresses chasing World Cup dream

**BANGKOK**

India's Under-20 women's football team has touched down in Thailand, carrying the hopes of a nation as they prepare for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup. This marks a historic return for the "Young Tigresses," who have qualified for this prestigious continental tournament for the first time in twenty years.

The 24-player squad arrived in Bangkok to begin a two-week acclimatization period. Adjusting to the local heat and humidity will be vital before they face a challenging Group C. Their journey kicks off against powerhouse Japan on April 2, followed by high-stakes matches against Australia and Chinese Taipei.

The stakes could not be higher. This tournament serves as the official gateway to the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup 2026 in Poland. To book their ticket to the world stage, India must finish among the top four teams in the competition. It is a steep mountain to climb, but the team comes prepared.

Under head coach Joakim Alexandersson, the squad has undergone intensive training camps in Bengaluru, Kolkata, and even Sweden. Alexandersson believes the international exposure gained during their European tour has given the players the tactical edge needed to compete with Asia's elite.

While the coach must soon trim the roster to a final 23-member squad, the current group shows a strong, balanced mix of talent across all positions. For these young athletes, the next few weeks represent a golden opportunity to prove that Indian women's football belongs on the global map.

# India to host historic world athletics event

**NEW DELHI**

In a landmark moment for Indian sports, World Athletics has officially announced that India will host the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships. The prestigious event is set to take place in Odisha from March 3 to 5, marking the very first time a global indoor track and field championship will be held on Indian soil.

The decision was finalized during a high-level council meeting in Torun, where sports leaders mapped out the future of international athletics. Alongside India's selection, Astana was named as the host for the 2030 edition. World Athletics President Sebastian Coe praised the move, noting that bringing such elite competitions to emerging markets like India is key to growing the sport globally.

Odisha has fast become India's sporting capital, having successfully hosted the Asian Athletics Championships and invested heavily in world-class infrastructure. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi hailed the announcement as a proud moment for the nation, believing it will inspire a new generation of local athletes to dream of Olympic glory.

The global spotlight won't just be on India; the council also selected Hefei, China, to host the 2028 Race Walking Team Championships. Experts view these choices as a strategic shift toward expanding the reach of athletics across Asia. For India, this championship represents more than just a three-day meet—it is a massive leap forward in its journey to becoming a premier destination for the world's greatest sporting spectacles.

# Gautam Gambhir battles AI deepfakes in court

**NEW DELHI**

Indian cricket head coach Gautam Gambhir has taken a stand against the "weaponization" of his identity, moving the Delhi High Court to stop the spread of AI-generated deepfakes. The former World Cup hero is seeking an urgent ban on the unauthorized use of his name, voice, and likeness across social media and e-commerce platforms.

During a hearing, Justice Jyoti Singh noted minor discrepancies in the case documents and postponed the matter to a future date. Gambhir's legal team, led by Advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, highlighted a series of "disturbing" videos. These include a fabricated resignation announcement that went viral with 2.9 million views and another clip falsely showing him assaulting a player. Perhaps most shocking was an image where Gambhir's face was morphed onto that of Mahatma Gandhi.

The petition argues that these AI tools—including face-swapping and voice cloning—are being used to spread misinformation and generate illicit revenue. Gambhir is not just asking for the removal of this content; he is seeking $₹2.5$ crore in damages. The lawsuit names 16 defendants, ranging from anonymous social media accounts to tech giants like Meta, X, and Google. "This is not just about personal hurt," Gambhir stated, emphasizing that it is a fight for dignity in the digital age.

# Mooney shines as Australia takes series lead

**KINGSTOWN**

Australia's women's cricket team launched their Caribbean tour with a commanding 43-run victory over the West Indies. The win gives the world champions a 1-0 lead in the three-match T20 international series, proving once again why they are the team to beat on the global stage.

Batting first, the visitors put up a formidable total of 164 for 6. The star of the show was Beth Mooney, who played a brilliant, calculated innings of 79 runs off just 55 balls. Her knock, filled with seven boundaries and two powerful sixes, anchored the Australian effort. Veteran all-rounder Ellyse Perry provided steady support with a brisk 36, ensuring the scoreboard kept ticking over despite some clever bowling from Deandra Dottin, who claimed three wickets.

The chase proved too steep for the home side. West Indies struggled to find their rhythm as the required run rate climbed steadily. While opener Qiana Joseph fought hard for her 45 runs, the rest of the batting lineup crumbled under pressure. Australia's Alana King led a disciplined bowling attack, taking three key wickets to keep the Windies restricted to 121 for 6 by the end of their 20 overs.

Mooney was deservingly named Player of the Match for her batting masterclass. The two teams will meet again at the same venue on March 22. West Indies will need a much stronger batting performance if they hope to level the series and keep their hopes alive against a dominant Australian side.

# Ronnie O'Sullivan makes history with record 153

**YUSHAN**

Snooker legend Ronnie O'Sullivan has once again rewritten the record books, crafting the highest break in professional history. The 50-year-old seven-time world champion stunned the crowd at the World Open by scoring a massive 153 in his quarterfinal match against Ryan Day. Known as "The Rocket," O'Sullivan surpassed the previous record of 148 held by Jamie Burnett for over 20 years. While a "perfect" break is typically 147, O'Sullivan took advantage of a "free ball" after a foul by his opponent. This allowed him to pot an extra ball before clearing the 15 reds and all the colors. He finished just two points shy of the theoretical 155 maximum, an almost impossible feat in pro play. The historic moment came in the very first frame and set the tone for a dominant 5-0 victory. After the match, a beaming O'Sullivan took to social media to thank his fans, calling it a "pretty cool moment" in his long career.

# Pant says new coach boosts Lucknow bowlers

**NEW DELHI**

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) captain Rishabh Pant is banking on a legendary coaching mind to spark a title-winning season. Speaking ahead of IPL 2026, Pant praised the arrival of bowling expert Bharat Arun, credited with transforming India's national pace attack, for bringing instant "purity and energy" to the LSG camp.

After a disappointing bowling display last season, the franchise moved quickly to secure Arun's services. Pant, who previously worked with the coach during his time with Team India, noted that the veteran's ability to build trust is already paying off. The skipper explained that the bowlers now feel comfortable opening up about their struggles, a vital step in creating a more confident and lethal unit.

Beyond the technical drills, Pant is focused on the mental side of the game. He stressed that the modern IPL environment has become too stressful, urging his teammates to rediscover the "childlike joy" of playing. "If you don't enjoy yourself, you can't give your best," Pant remarked, highlighting the importance of a relaxed dressing room where players treat the sport as a passion rather than just work.

On a personal level, Pant confirmed he is in a "good space" both physically and mentally after recovering from a side strain. As he prepares to lead LSG in their season opener against Delhi Capitals on April 1 at the Ekana Stadium, his message is clear: hard work and a happy heart are the keys to the trophy.

# Indian football scores major global technical win

**NEW DELHI**

In a major boost for the sport, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been awarded the prestigious "Triple-A" Certificate by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). This top-tier recognition, announced at the AFC Technical Summit, places India among an elite group of just 12 nations recognized for their world-class football development systems. The "Triple-A" standard stands for Analysis, Advice, and Accreditation. To earn it, India's football structure underwent a rigorous review by experts, including AFC Technical Director Andy Roxburgh. The evaluation covered everything from grassroots programs and youth academies to the growth of women's football and futsal. This certificate proves that India's coaching and training methods now meet the highest international standards.

One of the most exciting benefits of this achievement is the "global passport" it gives to Indian coaches. Thanks to a partnership between the AFC and UEFA, coaching licenses earned in India will now be officially recognized by European football associations.

# Rain halts thrilling Indian open Polo match

**NEW DELHI**

A sudden downpour stole the spotlight at the Indian Open Polo Championship, forcing a high-stakes match to end without a result. The clash between Jindal Panther and Jaipur Optiemus Achievers was cut short at the historic Jaipur Polo Grounds, leaving nearly 1,000 rain-soaked fans wanting more.

The game started with explosive energy despite the gray skies. Jaipur Optiemus Achievers took an early lead, thanks to sharp goals from Alejo Aramburu and Sawai Padmanabh Singh. While Jindal Panther struggled initially, they mounted a spirited comeback in the third chukker, slicing through the defense to close the scoring gap.

The momentum swung back and forth as the match progressed. Sawai Padmanabh Singh continued to dazzle the crowd, firing in two more goals during the fourth chukker to keep the Achievers ahead. However, as the fifth chukker wrapped up, the weather took a turn for the worse. The heavy rain transformed the prestigious field into a slippery hazard.

For the safety of both the elite athletes and their horses, officials made the difficult call to stop the play before the final round. Team owner Naveen Jindal explained that while the competition is fierce, protecting the welfare of the animals and players is the top priority.

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